

(b) The section 13 of the Act enjoins upon the Board of the Trust the setting up of local level committees for such areas as may be specified. Local level committees are currently being set up at the level of district, consisting of District Magistrate or District Commissioner or an equivalent Officer, a representative of a registered organization working in the field of autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities, a disabled person as mentioned in the clause (t) of the Section 2 of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

At present 26 local level committees have been set up in accordance with the above. These committees include persons with disabilities.

(c) Question does not arise.

Special Bus facilitating the movement of disabled

2483. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a special bus in which Stephen Hawkins travelled as also facilitating the movement of disabled was devised by one lady social worker;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the promoter is creating portable ramps and a stair lift that would help disabled to climb stairs on their wheelchairs;
- (c) if so, Government's assessment of both the projects; and
- (d) whether Government would subsidise or bear the major cost to make environment barrier free for the 70 million disabled persons of this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. A special bus in which Stephen Hawkins travelled as also facilitating the movement of persons with disabilities, was developed by an Occupational Therapist of Akshay Pratisthan, a Non-Government organization.

(b) Yes, Sir. The organization has taken up a proposal for creating portable ramps and a stair lift that would help persons with disabilities in functional independence and mobility.

(c) The Government considers these and efforts made by other organizations and individuals as contribution in design, development and awareness generation on barrier free features.

(d) The Government proposes to continue supporting various organizations and individuals through its schemes (including Science and Technology Project in Mission Mode) and policy initiatives, for creating a barrier free environment.

News-item regarding compilation of Data on Senior Citizens

2484. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the contents of the newsitem captioned "Police to compile data on senior citizens" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 8th February, 2001;

(b) whether the senior citizens have now the biggest fear of prolonged life and feeling insecure as they are neglected by their kith and kin;

(c) whether the record of senior citizens residing within the respective jurisdiction of the Kotwali as per directions have since been taken in hand by the Commissioner of Police, Delhi; and

(d) if so, by when the information would be available so as to provide senior citizens with ample security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a result of changing demographic profile of the country accompanied by a new societal order, the Government is of the understanding that the senior citizens face a number of problems including those related to neglect by their kith and kin.

(c) As per the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in